

Reviving the land

Green team tackles environment repair

GREENING Australia has entered into a partnership with North East Business Park in Caboolture which will provide environmental benefits with the rehabilitation of degraded pine and cane plantation land on the planned North Harbour site.

The North Harbour master plan will see about 350 hectares of the 760-hectare site preserved as open space and environmental buffer zones.

One of the initiatives of the rehabilitation program could be the inclusion of a wildlife corridor (suitable for koala habitat) and bird watching hides. Wildlife corridors have become an increasingly important issue in the Moreton Bay region in recent weeks with the march of residential development from the south (see front page story this week).

North East Business Park chief executive Jeff Smith said Greening Australia had been enlisted to ensure the best possible environmental outcome for the first part of the work.

Greening Australia chief executive Rod Bristow was excited to be involved in

this project which would deliver a three-year environmental rehabilitation program beginning in early 2010 and invest more than \$600,000 on the first 90 hectares of rehabilitation.

"The area requires extensive weed management and revegetation to increase the ecological and habitat values, improve water quality in the Caboolture River and establish an aesthetic and functional open space," Mr Bristow said.

"We have had a look at the areas to be restored and what types of plants and trees are indigenous to the area and enlisted the help of Caboolture Region Environmental Education Centre (CREEC) with this project."

The site has stands of hoop, bunya and Bribie pines as well as some introduced trees such as camphor laurels which will have to be removed.

The rehabilitation is part of North Harbour's \$628 million development which will see the creation of a residential and busi-

ness park precinct, a marina and golf course and Jeff Smith said that his team was committed to creating a healthy, diverse and sustainable environment which would be treasured by North Harbour residents and visitors alike.

"We want to create an open space everyone can enjoy, while retaining and preserving regional native flora and fauna," he said.

"North East Business Park and Greening Australia are looking forward to the opportunity to work closely with various community groups, local nurseries, the NEBP Community Consultation Committee and Moreton Bay Region residents to deliver environmental and social benefits for the community and future generations."



GREEN PASTURES: North Harbour Development site. Port Birmil CEO Jeff Smith, Councillor Chris Whiting and Rod Bristow from Greening Australia.

Photo: Warren Lynam/c15245

Harbour rises above climate change

THE proposed North Harbour on the southern bank of the Caboolture River has been planned to withstand the full effects of climate change.

North East Business Park director Neil Morris said the \$628 million master-planned community would be developed at almost four metres above the current average sea level, well beyond the anti-

ipated impact of sea level rises.

Mr Morris said Moreton Bay Regional Council required development to be at least 3.23 metres above sea level and North Harbour comfortably exceeded that requirement.

"Scarborough is built at 1.73 metres so the heartache caused by significant rises due to climate change will be felt elsewhere in the district long before

North Harbour," Mr Morris said. He said the project would also be developed above the one in 100 year (Q100) flood level and an independent study showed the planned flood mitigation strategies would ensure there was no flooding impact on neighbouring properties.

The Queensland Government Co-ordinator-General has recommended North Harbour

be approved, satisfied that the project is well within climate change guidelines.

Mr Morris said the construction of the 900 berth marina and dredging of the navigation channel in the lower reaches of the Caboolture River was an integral part of the project, providing the stimulus for the development of 160 hectares of business park.